

'SITE NUMBER: WA-IV-166  
ADDRESS: 3 South Main Street, Smithsburg, MD  
OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: Julian Oliver, 550/422, private  
BUILDING DATE: c. 1909

3 South Main Street is a vertically-massed, deep, three-story, four-bay, brick commercial building sited at the prominent southeast intersection of Main and Water Streets. Although the building has been altered with the bricking in of many of its windows, the essence of its original appearance is still intact. The building rests on a roughcut, ashlar stone foundation, which is minimally exposed on the South Main Street elevation, but which becomes more visible on the East Water Street side as the street slopes downward and more of the basement is exposed. Smooth-faced stonework is integrated with brickwork to create the ornamental articulation of the building. Bricks are laid in a running bond and are laid to create pilasters between the bays on the East Water Street facade. Stone is used for the watertable, for voussoirs, and as banding that articulates the openings on the first and third floor. Stone is also used for the beltcourses between the stories, to cap the brick pilasters, and for the steps leading into the major commercial spaces. The building is topped by a wide frieze and a metal(?) bracketed cornice. The roof is flat. The original fenestration consisted of a hierarchy of round-arched windows for the commercial spaces on the first floor, rectangular windows on the second floor (defined by the beltcourses), and segmentally arched windows on the top floor. Although the windows on the first floor are intact with their large plates of glass, the windows of the second and third bays on the top two floors have been entirely

bricked in and the remaining windows have been shortened to accommodate square, modern double-hung, one-over-one windows. There are two round-arched entrances on the South Main Street facade that match the width of the window openings. The northern entrance retains its original glazed and panelled double doors in their wood frame. The southern entrance doors have been replaced with modern, glass, double doors in an aluminum frame. The rear of the building has had open porches added to provide the building residents with outdoor space.

The building is set on original lot 11. According to the 1814 plat of the town, the lot was owned by George M. Boyer and had a two-story, three-bay house on it facing Green Castle (Main) Street. By 1875, a large building owned by Besore & Welty is noted on the town map of that date. According to the Smithsburg Historical Society (SHS), the extant building was erected c. 1909. The 1916 Sanborn indicates the extant building, and notes that it was numbered 150 Main Street and was occupied by a bank and the post office. The 1923 Sanborn indicates that the building was the designated post office (located in the basement, according to the SHS), that the first floor was a bank, the second floor was offices (occupied by doctors, according to the SHS), and the third floor was a lodge room. Today the first-floor commercial spaces are vacant and the upper floors contain apartments.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Period of Industrial/Urban Dominance, and falls within the Historic Period Theme of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning, as well as the

WA-IV-166

Economic, and Social/Educational/Cultural Theme Periods. Prepared  
by Julie Mueller, April 1991

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN:**

**STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXT**

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Development Periods: Industrial/Urban Dominance

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning  
Economics  
Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: buildings

Historic Environment: small, rural town

Historic Function and Use: commercial/social

Known Design Source: unknown

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. WA-IV-166

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 3 South Main Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Smithsburg ☐ vicinity of ☐ congressional district

state Maryland ☐ county Washington

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Julian L. and Elizabeth Oliver

street & number 1891 Preston Road telephone no.: 301-739-1273

city, town Hagerstown state and zip code MD 21740

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse liber 550

street & number Summit Avenue and West Washington Street folio 422

city, town Hagerstown, state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WA-IV-166

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### The Setting

This structure is located in Washington County at 3 South Main Street (lot 550/422) in Smithsburg. Sited at the southeast corner of Main and Water Streets, the town's principal thoroughfares, the building is a visual anchor in Smithsburg's commercial district. One of four large commercial structures set on each corner of this intersection, it is the youngest of the grouping. The site slopes downward to the east and there is an open lot behind the building along East Water Street.

### Exterior

3 South Main Street is a vertically-massed, deep, three-story, four-bay, brick commercial building sited at the prominent southeast intersection of Main and Water Streets. Although the building has been altered with the bricking in of many of its windows, the essence of its original appearance is still intact. The building rests on a roughcut, ashlar stone foundation, which is minimally exposed on the South Main Street elevation, but which becomes more visible on the East Water Street side as the street slopes downward and more of the basement is exposed.

Smooth-faced stonework is integrated with brickwork to create the ornamental articulation of the building. Bricks are laid in a running bond and are laid to create pilasters between the bays on the East Water facade. Stone is used for the watertable, for voussoirs, and as banding that articulates the openings on the first and third floors. Stone is also used for the beltcourses between the stories, to cap the brick pilasters, and for the steps leading into the major commercial spaces.

The building is topped by a wide frieze and a metal bracketed cornice. The roof is flat.

The original fenestration consisted of a heirarchy of round-arched windows for the commercial spaces on the first floor, rectangular windows on the second floor (defined by the beltcourses), and segmentally arched windows on the top floor. Although the windows on the first floor are intact with their large plates of glass, the windows of the second and third bays on the top two floors have been entirely bricked in and the remaining windows have been shortened to accomodate square, modern, double-hung, one-over-one windows.

There are two round-arched entrances on the South Main Street facade that match the width of the window openings. The northern entrance retains its original glazed and panelled double doors in their wood frame. The southern entrance doors have been replaced with modern, glass, double doors in aluminum frames.

(continued...)

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WA-IV-166

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates between 1907-1912 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This structure is one of four, large commercial structures that serve as a visual anchor for Smithsburg's commercial district. Located at the geographic center of town at the principal intersection, the structure is prominently located.

The building is set on original lot 11. According to the 1814 plat of the town, the lot was owned by George M. Boyer and had a two-story, three-bay house on it facing Green Castle (Main) Street. By 1877, a large building owned by Besore & Welty is noted on the town map of that date. From 1881, it was owned by Lucien Brenner, a prominent local businessman, who also owned the large store at the northeast corner of Main and Water (WA-IV-210). This building stood until at least 1907, according to a historic photograph, when it was demolished and replaced by the extant structure.

It is unclear exactly who erected the new building or when it was built: Brenner or the People's Banking Company of Smithsburg, before or after 1910. Based on tax records that do not provide enough information, Brenner may have built the new building and sold it to the People's Banking Company when he sold them the property in 1910. Both Brenner and the Bank are listed with significant improvements on their lots in the 1910 tax record. (The county tax records do not provide information on lot numbers. Therefore, if the property owner owned more than one lot--the number of lots is provided--it is difficult to ascertain where the improvements are. In the case of the 1910 tax record, both the People's Banking Company and Brenner are listed with several lots with major improvements.) In all likelihood, the bank erected the extant structure and the improvements listed in the 1910 tax record refer to the previous building on the site. A 1912 deed from the bank notes the building as "recently erected."

The 1916 Sanborn indicates the building and notes that it was numbered 150 Main Street and was occupied by a bank and the post office. The 1923 Sanborn indicates that the building was the designated post office (located in the basement, according to the Smithsburg Historical Society), that the

(continued...)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WA-IV-166

See attached sheets

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .10  
Quadrangle name Smithsburg, MDQuadrangle scale MD

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting NorthingB 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting NorthingC 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification Lot 550/422 in Smithsburg, bounded by South Main Street on the west, East Water Street on the north

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Julianne Muellerorganization date July 1991street & number 2730 Ordway Street, N.W. telephone 202-364-6594city or town Washington, D.C. state

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## 7. DESCRIPTION

Page 7.1

The Interior

The first and basement levels of the building are currently vacant. The first floor consists of two principal spaces--the former banking room that is accessed by the main entrance and the stairhall leading to the upper floors that is accessed through the secondary entrance. The banking room is one large open space. Original walnut panel wainscotting is in place, as is the bank vault in the southeast corner of the room. However, original flooring and the room's tin ceiling have been removed, revealing the ceiling and floor framing. The stairhall is composed of a vestibule with a tile floor and interior, double doors of oak. Beyond this set of doors is a narrow hallway with a staircase along the south wall. Traditional wainscotting lines the walls.

The second and third floors have been converted into apartment units.

CONTINUATION SHEET

SURVEY NO. WA-IV-166

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Page 8.1

first floor was a bank, the second floor was an office (occupied by a doctor, according to the SHS), and the third floor served as a lodge room. Today the first-floor commercial spaces are vacant and the upper floors contain apartments.

A partial chain of title was traced to 1881.

November 15, 1881 (108/392), Deed from John W. Cable and Benjamin Welty, executor, to Lucien B. and Mary L. Brenner

May 9, 1910 (132/4407), Deed from Lucien and Mary Brenner to People's Banking Company of Smithsburg for the sum of \$5000

February 8, 1912 (138/107), Deed from People's Banking Company to Lancelot Jacques, et al for the sum of \$3000, a property "...beginning at a stake on the inner edge or building line of the pavement...and five feet southward from the corner of the People's Banking Company Building recently erected..."

October 31, 1972 (550/422), Deed from Julia M. Hayes and Samuel Jacques, personal representatives for the estate of Lancelot Jacques, Jr. to Julian and Elizabeth Oliver for the sum of \$9,300.

Significance

A preliminary architectural evaluation of the building was made in January 1991 by Julianne Mueller during a survey of Smithsburg. At that time a survey site number WA-IV-166 was assigned and it was determined that the structure is a contributing element to Smithsburg's historic architectural character. A summary sheet on the building with photographs was submitted to the Maryland Historical Trust in May 1991. The summary provides a basic description of the building and places it with the Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan: State Historic Context (Western Maryland Geographic Organization; the Development Period of Industrial/Urban Dominance; the Historic Period Themes of Economics; Social/Educational/Cultural; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning).

Upon the suggestion of the Smithsburg Historical Society, the general history of the building was researched. It was concluded that the building served an important economic role during the 20th century, is an excellent example of early 20th-century commercial architecture, and meets eligibility Criterion C for listing on the Maryland Register.

Criterion A -- The property is not associated with significant historical events.

Criterion B -- The property is not associated with a significant person.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

Page 8.2

**Criterion C --** The building exhibits exceptional architectural design, method of construction, or craftsmanship, or is the product of a trained architect. For its commanding presence at the center of town, and for its architectural detailing, 3 South Main is a contributing element to the architectural significance of Smithsburg.

**Criterion D --** The property may provide important information about history or prehistory. The property has not been assessed for its archeological potential. However, because an older building existed on this site before the construction of the extant building, and because of the presence of the empty lot to the rear of the building, it is possible that related 19th- and 20th-century archeological remains might be found in this lot.

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

**SURVEY NO. WA-IV-166**

**9. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Page 9.1

Smithsburg Historical Society, photographic files

Washington County Deeds and Tax Records

**MAPS:**

1814 Plat of the town

1877 town map

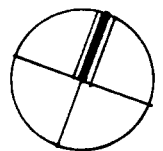
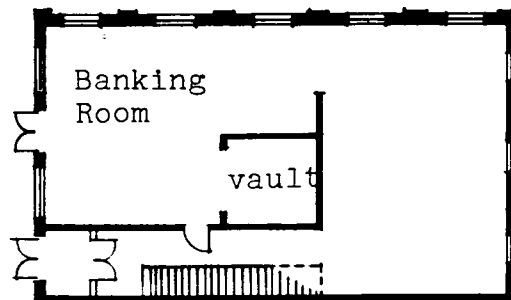
1916 Sanborn

1923 Sanborn Map

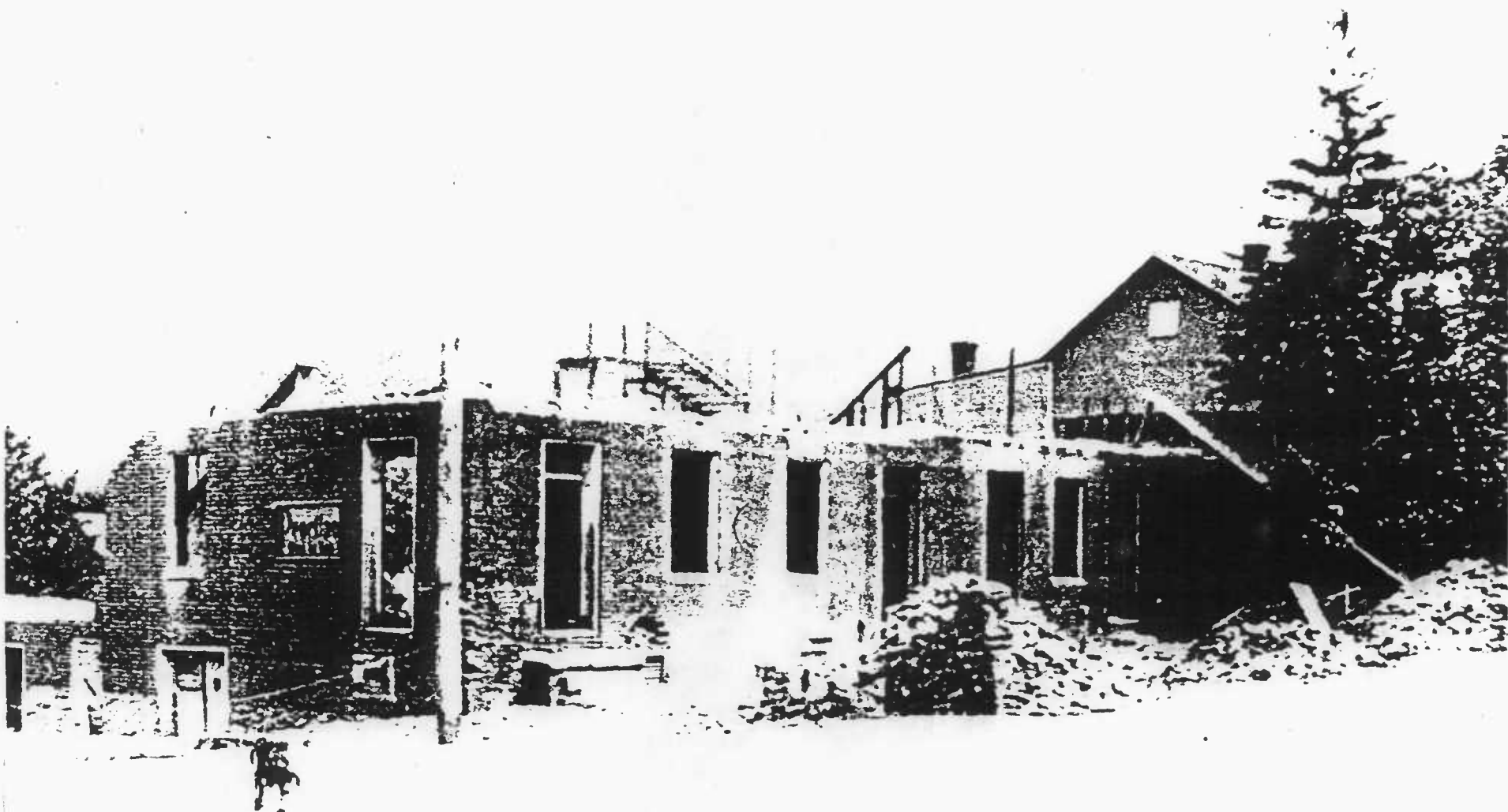
WA-IV-166

East Water Street

South Main Street

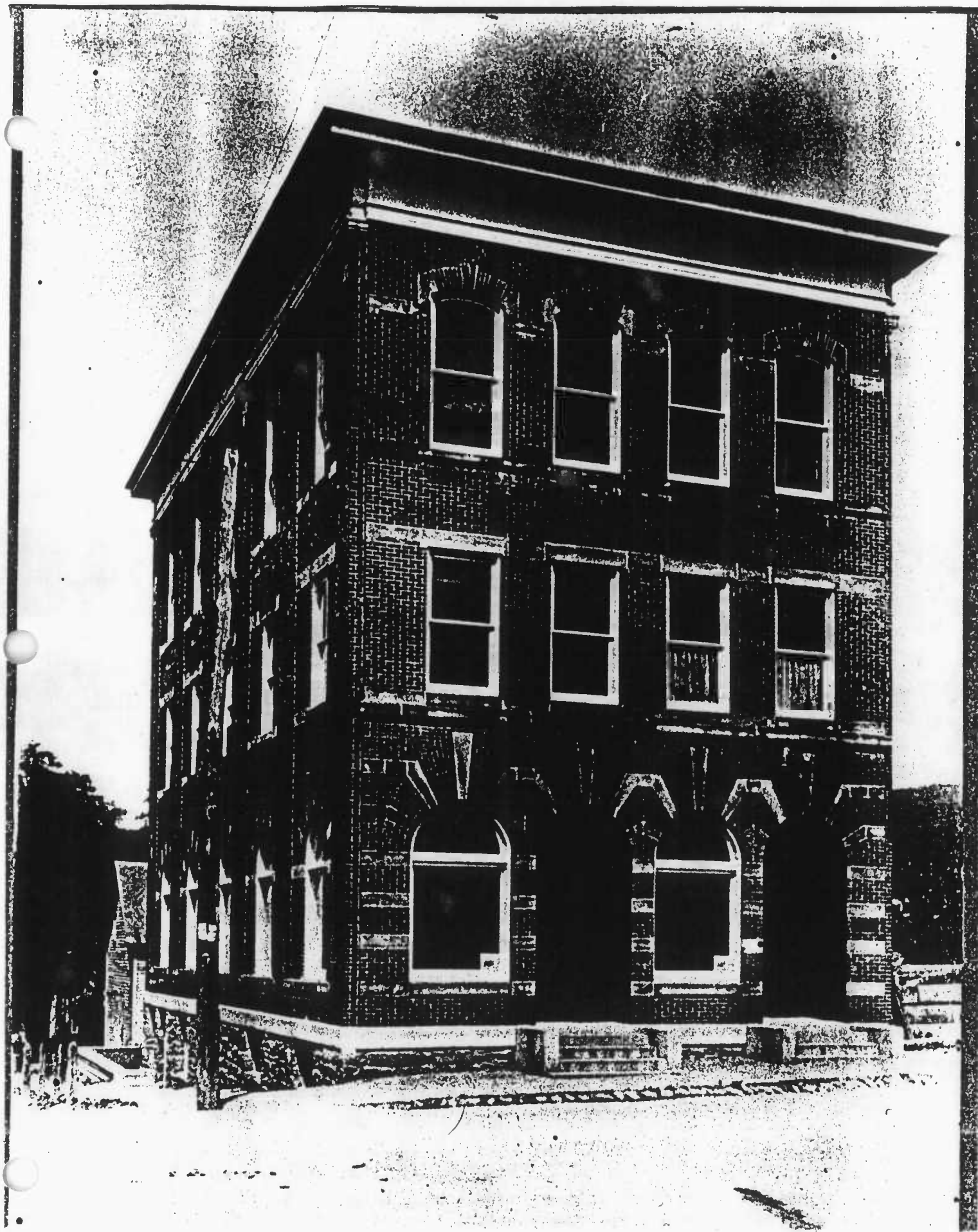


Not to scale

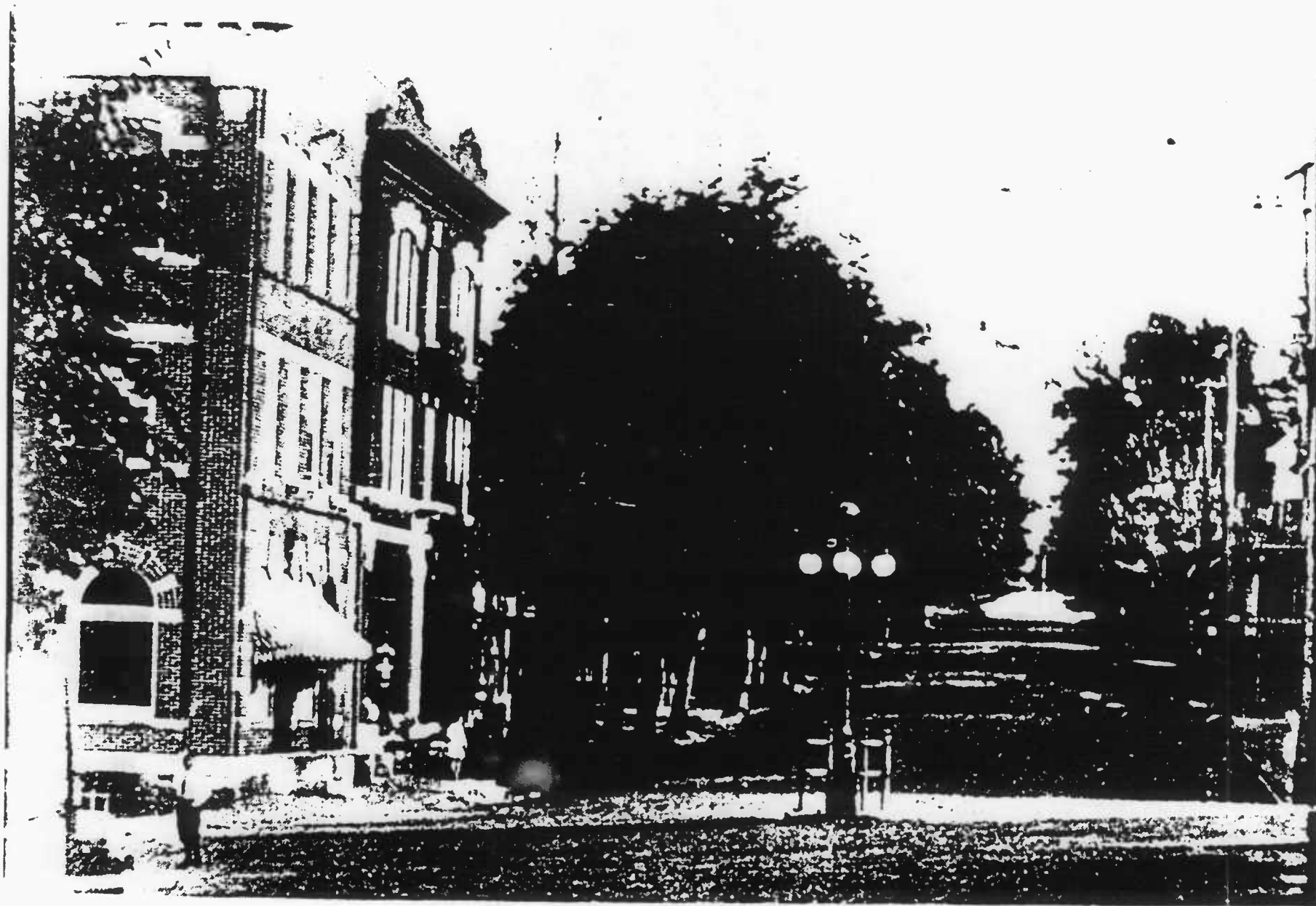


Bldg that stood on the site of WA-IV-166  
being dismantled (between 1907-1912)

WA-IV-166



WA-10-166 Newly erected (1907-1912)



East Main Street, Smithsburg, Md.



WA-10-166 c. 1920

South Main Street, Smithburg, Md.



↑  
Site of future  
WA-IV-166

S. Main St. — 1907

C. Hildebrand, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Queensware, Hardware, Notions, and General Merchandise.  
 A. Riddlemoser, Physician and Surgeon. Office and Residence, Main street.  
 H. Rohrer & Co., Forwarding and Commission Merchants, Dealers in Grain, Coal, Plaster, Bone Meal, &c.  
 Mrs. Hitebaw, Dealer in Plaster, Coal, Flour, Mill Feed, Cooper Stuffs, Dry Goods, Groceries, &c.  
 Sabillasville, Frederick county.  
 A. Vogel, General Blacksmith and Repair Shop.

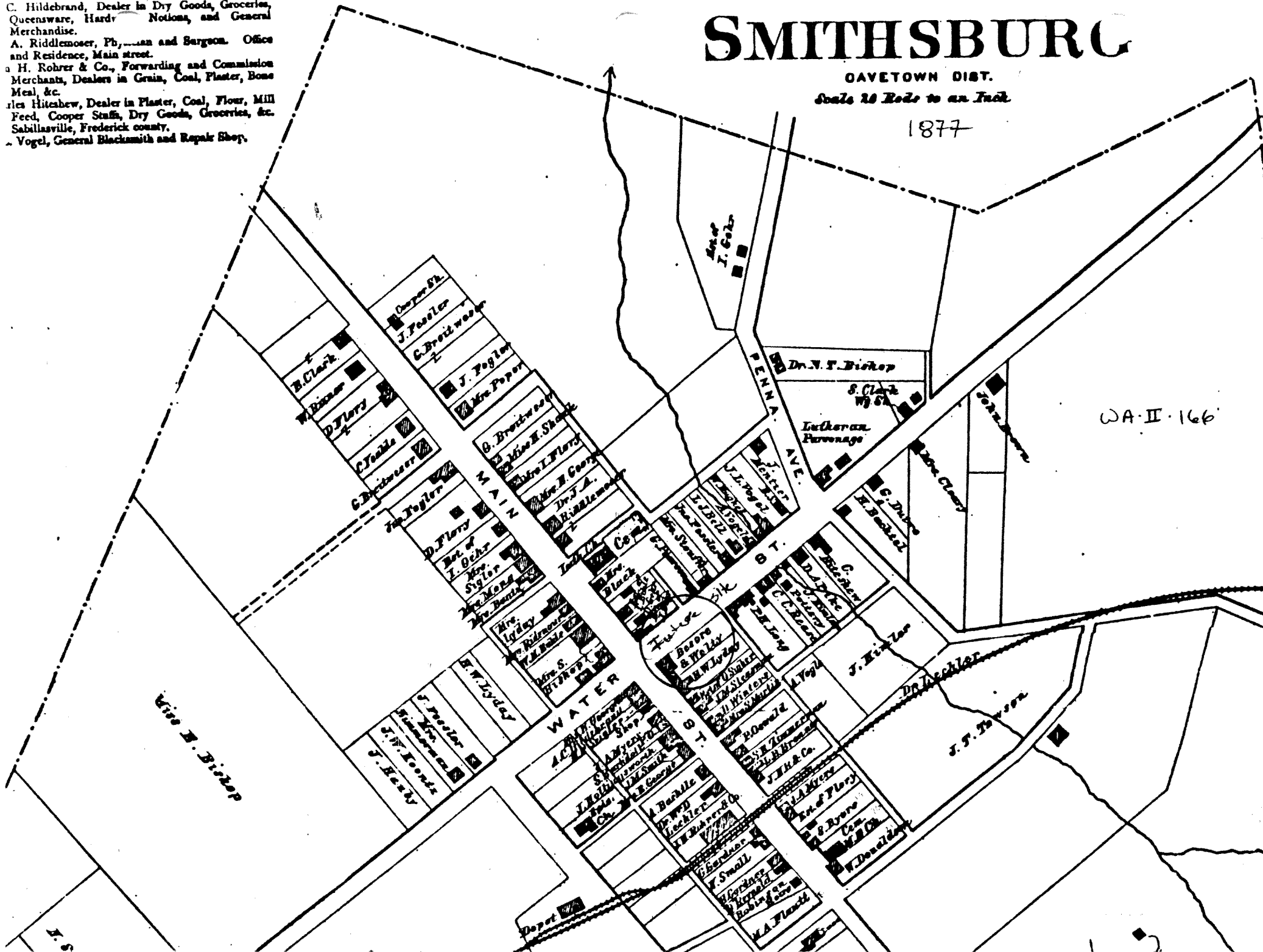
# SMITHSBURG

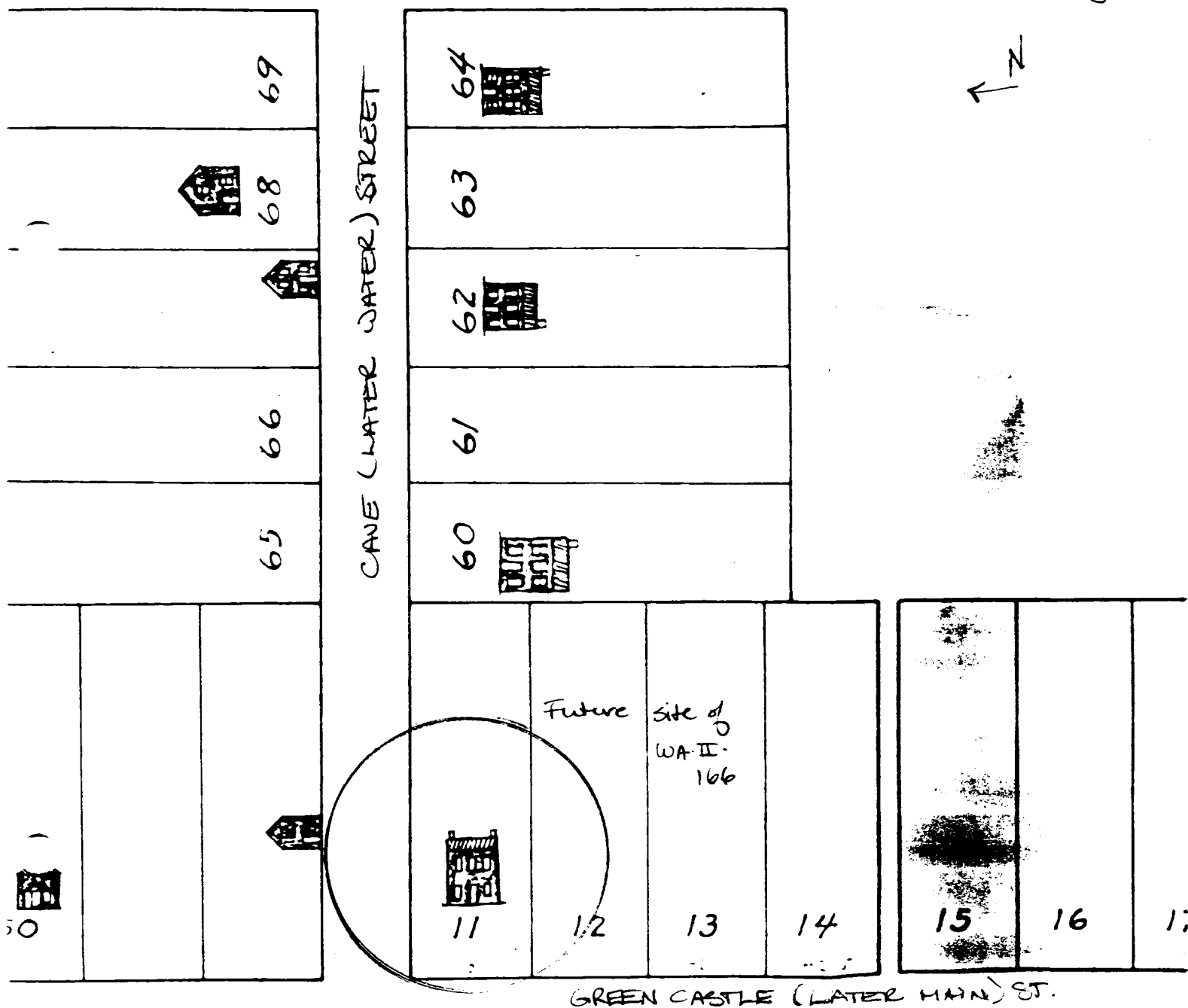
DAYTOWN DIST.

Scale 20 Rods to an Inch

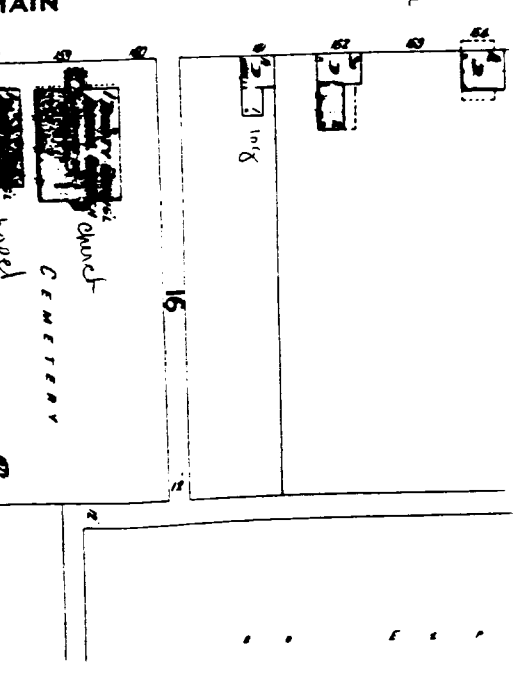
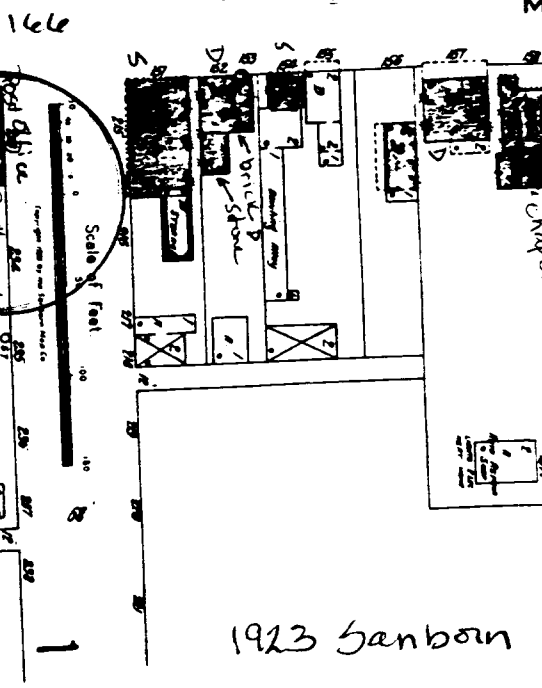
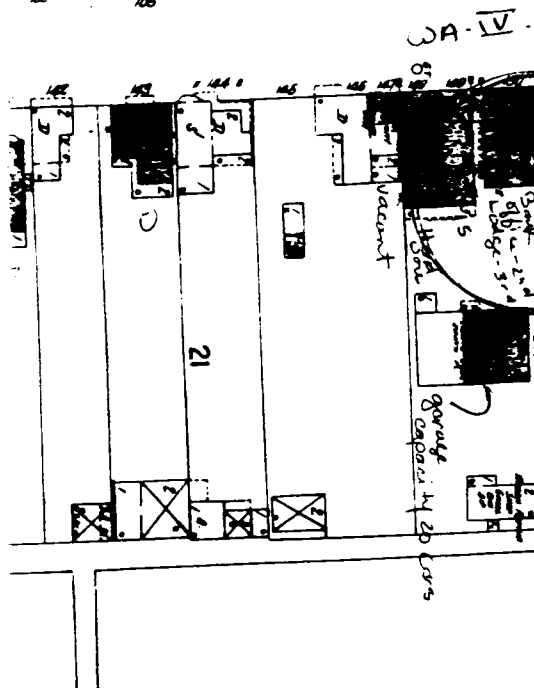
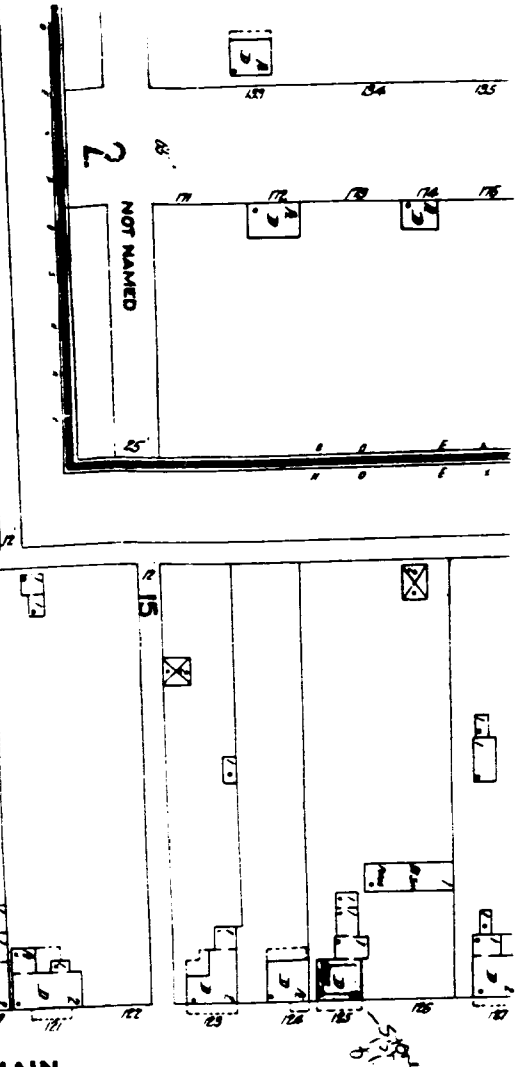
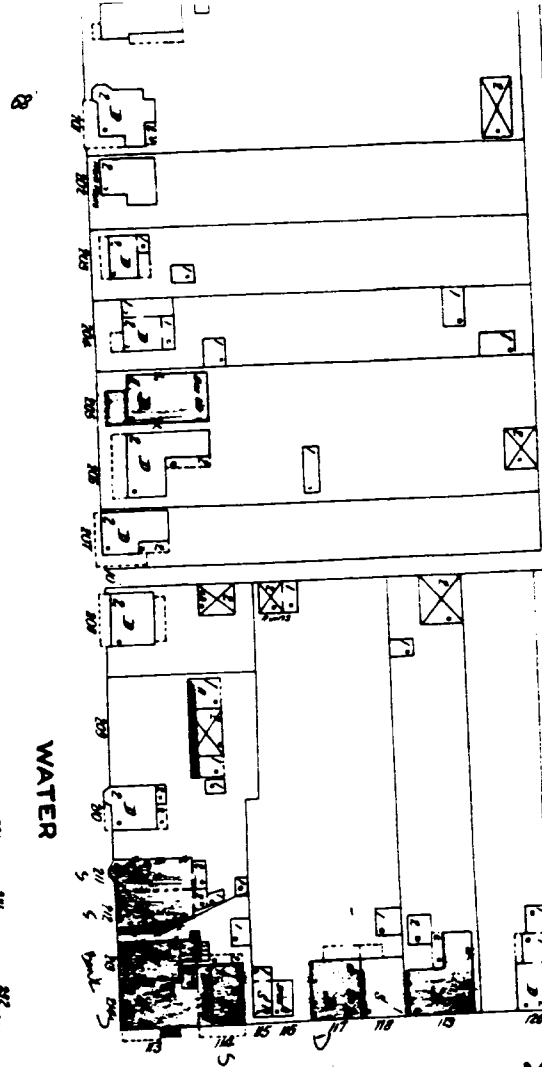
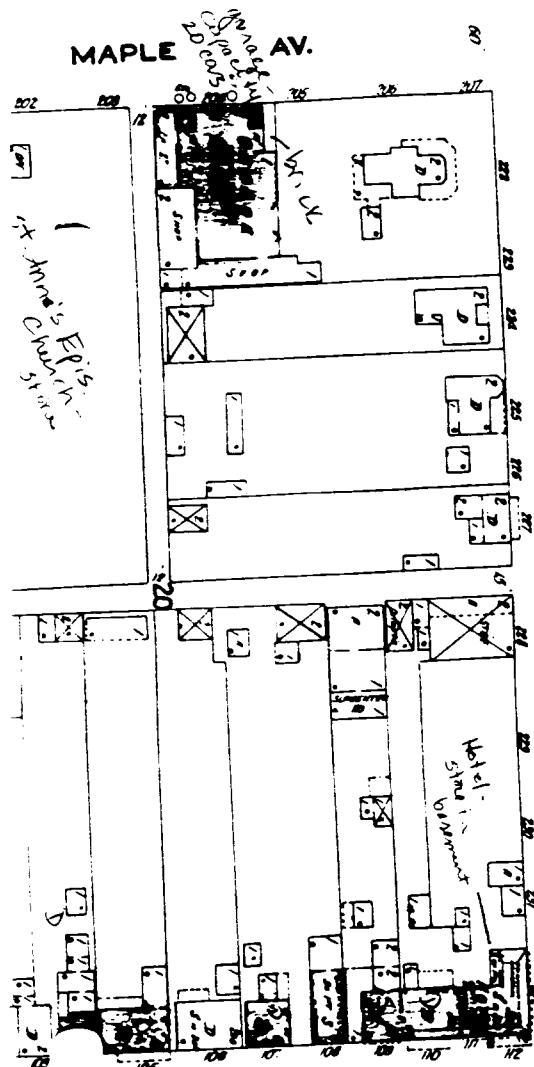
1877

WA-II-166









1923 Sanborn

TRINITY EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

211/675, 128/338

SALLY C. LAY  
646/351

MORRIS E. LAY  
674/425

ROBERT J.  
GEISER  
623/303

D. S. SMITH  
708/246

MARY L. RIDENOUR  
505/181

DONALD E. HAYES, JR.  
653/42

RICHARD E. VERDIER  
802/615

WAYNE E. PUTMAN  
867/221

JOHN L.  
BURKETT  
707/738

CHARLES P. JOHNSON  
822/782

ROBERT L. AURAND  
745/548

WA-14-166

EAST WATER

JULIAN OLIVER  
553/422

TERRY L.  
MYERS  
628/680

CARL E. CLINGAN  
829/327

MONROE J. TARANTO  
826/785

WAYNE L. RAMSBERG  
734/815

SIMON CLOPPER  
700/171

CLIFFORD KENDALL  
720/787

THOMAS D. ECKSTINE  
726/931

PAUL C. CORNISH  
895/502

GLORIA W. BARNARD, ET AL  
881/536

SHAWN T. CHINGLER  
616/50

ZELDA P. GROVE, TRUST  
922/37

CHEWSVILLE CO-OP ASSOCIATION  
290/175

DAVID E. REED  
755/757

DAVID P. CREAMER  
887/865

HOMER L. MYERS  
908/498

CATHERINE V.  
POFFENBERGER  
623/362

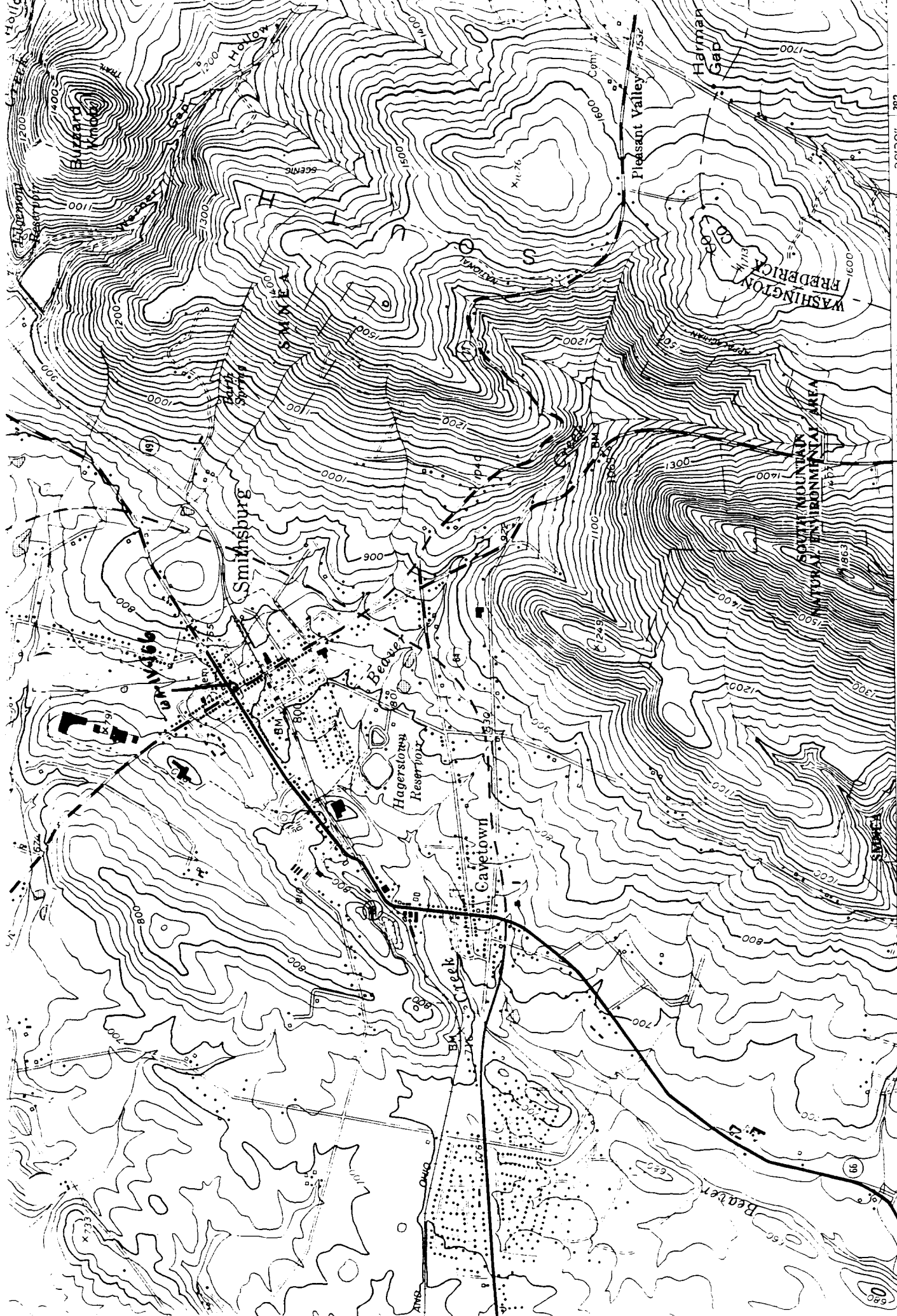
SMITHSBURG LIBRARY

WILLIAM B. KIMLER  
141/584

WILLIAM B. KIMLER  
150/364, 141/585, 138/108  
5.00 A

SOUTH MAIN ST.

WESTERN MARYLAND



76° 10' 00" W 76° 09' 00" W  
278 35' 279 32' 30" N  
630 000 FEET (MD)  
TNA 1.9 MI  
(MYERSVILLE) WOLFVILLE 3.8 MI  
5463 II SE 10 MI TO U.S. 40  
GARFIELD 2.3 MI  
32° 30' 182

Topographical Survey

SCALE 1:24000





WA-10-166

7/1991

J. Mueller

front (w.) elevation



WA-10-166

7/1991

J. Mueller

side + rear (N+E) elevations



WA-1U-166

7/1991

J. Phelle

rear (E) elevation







WA-W-146

1-3 South Main, Smithsburg

1/1991

Julie Mueller

looking SW